



ecology and environment, inc.

160 SPEAR STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105, TEL. 415/777-2811

International Specialists in the Environment

43491
3682

MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul La Courreye, EPA Region IX

FROM: James M. James, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *[Signature]*

DATE: August 31, 1992

SUBJECT: Completed Work, Work Assignment No. 20-18-9J00

CC: Lisa Nelson, Work Assignment Manager
Wenona Garside, EPA Contract Officer
Rob Stern, EPA Project Officer

Attached is the following completed:

PA _____ SI _____ EPI PA _____ PA Review _____ SI Review X

NPL Prioritization _____ SWIFT PA _____ SWIFT SI _____

Other _____

Site Name: Brown Vandever Abandoned Uranium/Vanadium Mine

EPA ID #: NND986669117 4229

City, County: Prewitt, McKinley

Latitude: 35° 21' 02" Longitude: 107° 56' 25"

State Recommendation: Appears Eligible for the National Priorities List
(for Reviews only)

FOR EPA USE ONLY

CERCLIS Lead: *S* ✓

sw/bv/cwm

recycled paper

SI-1 complete
pre 12.10.92
NFA/SEA ✓

12/10/92 RW

3682

ORIGINAL



ecology and environment, inc.

160 SPEAR STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105, TEL. 415/777-2811

International Specialists in the Environment

SITE INSPECTION REVIEW

SUBMITTED TO: Paul La Courreye, EPA Region IX Site Assessment Manager

PREPARED BY: Su-san Wen, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *sw*

DATE: August 31, 1992

SITE: Brown Vandever Abandoned Uranium/Vanadium Mine, prepared by Patrick Antonio of the Navajo Superfund Program, dated March 30, 1992

EPA ID#: NND986669117

E & E REVIEW/CONCURRENCE: *Karen Jadd 9/1/92*

RCRA STATUS

☐ Generator ☐ Small Quantity Generator ☐ Transporter

☐ TSD ☒ Not Listed in RCRA Database

HRS CONSIDERATIONS

- o Only one drinking water well exists within 4 miles of the site and serves approximately 500 people. Groundwater sampling results do not indicate contamination with radionuclides in this well.
- o Surface water is not used for drinking, recreation, or irrigation.
- o In November 1990, EPA Region IX Emergency Response Section (ERS) conducted a gamma radiation survey at the Brown Vandever site. Gamma radiation readings in some areas exceeded 50 times background levels. In 1990, ERS, in conjunction with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), determined that there was an imminent threat to the residents living near the tailings. To reduce the radiological hazards at the site, ERS conducted the following in August-September, 1991: applied earth cover to effectively reduce gamma radiation levels (no

waste was removed); filled, sealed, and capped mine adits, inclines, and ventilation shafts; revegetated and posted warning signs at the reclaimed areas. Gamma radiation on site after the response action have been reduced to background levels. EPA and ATSDR concurred that radiation levels at the site are protective of public health and the environment.

COMMENTS

The SI author evaluated the site based on pre-reclamation conditions; E & E evaluated the site based on post-reclamation conditions, since gamma levels were reduced to background concentrations.

There appears to be a discrepancy between the number of drinking water wells reported to be present within 4 miles of the site (in the SI report) and the number of wells used to calculate targets associated with the wells (in the scoresheets). The number of people served by well #16T-551 is unclear.

CONCLUSIONS

 X Appears to be ineligible for National Priorities List

 Potentially eligible for National Priorities List

STATE RECOMMENDATION

 No Further Remedial Action Planned under CERCLA

 X Further Remedial Action Planned under CERCLA

 Potentially eligible for National Priorities List

EPA RECOMMENDATION

*ER Actions make further
CERCLA investigation/cleanup unnecessary.*

No Further Remedial Action
Planned under CERCLA

Higher-Priority for
Further Site Assessment

Lower-Priority for
Further Site Assessment

Defer to Other Authority
(e.g., RCRA, TSCA, NRC)

Initial

Date

Pal

12.10.92

Notes: